DSPACE

https://dspace.org/

# Ngiphathel’ uGubhu Lwam’ Ekhaya Lapha, Mnawami! UMntwana uMagogo and the photographic image

**Shange, Belinda Kholeka**

**2020**
https://hdl.handle.net/10539/30758

Downloaded from a DSpace repository. https://dspace.org/

# Abstract

'Princess Magogo kaDinuzulu' is a historical figure whose prominence and acclaim has been primarily documented through 'Zulu' historiography. She has been immortalised as the daughter of 'King Dinuzulu'[1], the mother of 'Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi' and an unparalleled musician, imbongi[2], instrumentalist, composer, performer and custodian of 'Zulu culture'. However, in this thesis, I posit that the way in which this seemingly larger-than-life 'Zulu' royal woman has been commonly represented is in many ways one-dimensional and patriarchal. In this study I explore how her obscure existence in 'Zulu' historiography not only perpetuates the marginalisation of 'Zulu' royal women's histories at large, but is also an illustration of how white supremacist capitalist heteropatriarchy relegates the experiences of Blackwomen to the margins. Moreover, through the use of a Blackwomen-centric feminist methodology, I examine how a re-reading of photographic representations of 'Princess Magogo kaDinuzulu' not only challenges the peripherilisation of these histories, but I investigate how this historic woman's hypervisibility (as a 'big' woman in 'Zulu' historiography) paradoxically renders the everyday woman that I refer to as uMntwana uMagogo invisible. In this regard, I am interested in how normative readings of the aforementioned images may be disrupted through various methods that I employ in each chapter. As such, 'Princess Magogo kaDinuzulu' is re-conceived as an ordinary Blackwoman that was not only a colonised subject, but existed in twentieth century South Africa as a Blackwoman wherein institutionalised race-based domination was systemised through apartheid.

*Keywords: Princess Magogo kaDinuzulu, 'Zulu' Royal women, 'Zulu' historiography, Photography, Black Feminism.*

---

1 'King Dinuzulu' is at times referred to as 'King Dinizulu' (sic) or 'King Dinuzulu kaCetshwayo'.

2 A Nguni term meaning praise poet.